

LONG ISLAND FORUM



Hunters Garden Group of the 1880's
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**THE
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Our Old Hunt Clubs

Long Island has a number of
 famous clubs devoted to hunting,
 fishing and other outdoor sports,
 some of which are among the
 oldest in State and nation.

Probably the most unique of the
 island's outdoor organizations is
 no club at all. Known as Hunters
 Garden, it convenes only twice a
 year, always on its woodland plot
 to the south of Riverhead.

Without benefit of written rec-
 ords, its history has come down
 via the old Indian method of word-
 of-mouth, from sire to son.

It was organized on the farm of
 John Luce near Riverhead in 1838.
 Luce had shot a deer which had
 ravaged his cornfield and invited
 his neighbors to a barbecue, fol-
 lowing which they replanted his
 corn. This was on the second Thurs-
 day of May and they returned the
 second Thursday of October to have
 a cornroast from Luce's crop. Since
 that time the tradition has been
 carried on each year with two
 meetings, always on the second
 Thursday of May and October.
 Instead of barbecued venison and
 corn, however, the chief course is
 now eel-chowder cooked up in huge
 iron pots.

South Side Club at Great River
 was incorporated April 6, 1866. Its
 traditions, however, go back to a
 much earlier time. About 1815 one
 Liff Snedecor acquired more than
 a thousand acres of woodland,
 streams and ponds from the Nicoll
 patent of 1683. Building a tavern
 back from the King's highway
 (Merrick road) which passed
 through the property, he catered
 to wealthy sportsmen, mostly from
 New York, who came out to shoot,
 fish, lodge at the tavern and spend
 their evening hours at billiards
 and a bit of poker.

When in 1866 Liff decided to re-
 tire, a group of his clients organ-
 ized the club to take over the
 property. The tavern became the
 clubhouse, with Liff's son Obi and
 the latter's wife and their son to
 run it. Also retained were Liff's
 guides, Bill Carr, Steve Murray, a
 half-breed and his sons Lem and
 Ike. As for Liff and his good

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Dr. Horsford's Shelter Island

EBen Norton Horsford, one time Harvard professor, did much to make Shelter Island known as a summer resort. He was born at Moscow (now Leicester) in Livingston County, N. Y. in 1819, the son of Jedediah Horsford, a schoolteacher and missionary to the Indians of western New York, and his wife Charity Norton Horsford. Jedediah also served in the State Legislature and as a Congressman.

The interest of their son Eben early turned to natural science, from collecting fossils on his parents' farm. In the farmhouse he established a museum for his specimens. He also acquired a knowledge of the Indian language. At the age of thirteen he entered the Livingston school and at sixteen became a practical engineer in railroad surveying in that part of the State.

In 1838 at the age of nineteen he graduated from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, near Troy, and spent the next two years in a geological survey of the state. He then became an instructor in Albany at the Female Academy. In 1844 John White Webster, professor of chemistry at Harvard, invited Horsford to Cambridge and there urged him to study under Baron Justus von Liebig, one of the world's greatest chemists, at the University of Giessen in Germany.

In October of that year the young student went abroad and while studying under von Liebig served as correspondent of *The Cultivator*, published at Albany and edited by Luther Tucker. Horsford's writings in this journal did much to convert his patron, Prof. Webster, as well as Harvard President Edward Everett, Abbott Lawrence and other leading educators, to the cause of applying science

Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood

to agriculture in this country. It resulted in the founding at Cambridge of the Lawrence Scientific School. Horsford spent only two years abroad, however, and returned prematurely without the coveted degree of Doctor of Philosophy, having cut his stay short owing, in part, to a shortage of funds. On August 4, 1847, he married Mary Gardiner, the culmination of a romance which had begun some years before when Mary and her sister Phebe, residents of Shelter Island, had been pupils at the Female Academy in Albany when the young scientist was a teacher there.

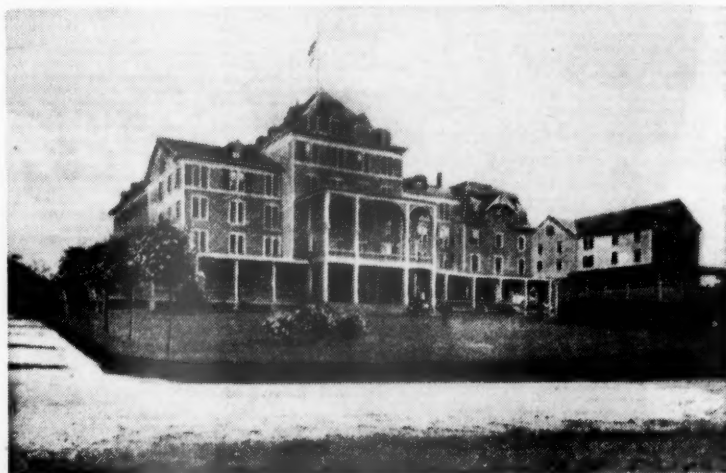
Mary and Phebe were granddaughters of Senator Ezra L'Hommedieu of Southold, and daughters of Samuel Smith Gardiner, a descendant of Lion Gardiner of Gardiner's Island. Samuel, an uncle of Julia Gardiner who became the second wife of President John Tyler, was a lawyer with his office in Sag Harbor, and was prominent in political affairs. In August 1823 he had married Ezra L'Hommedieu's only child

Mary, then only eighteen years old and seventeen years his junior.

Besides Mary and Phebe, Lawyer Gardiner and his wife Mary had another child, Frances Aliza who married Prof. George Martin Lane of Cambridge. Following the death of his first wife, Gardiner married Susan Mott, a widow of New York City.

It was in 1847 that Eben Norton Horsford, by then a recognized scientist of note but with no college degree, was called to the faculty of Harvard College. He had graduated as a civil engineer from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and had attended the Albany Medical College for two winters while teaching at the Female Academy. However, Union College of Schenectady had in 1843 awarded him the honorary degree of Master of Arts, and upon joining Harvard's faculty the latter institution awarded him its Master of Arts degree while at the same time Castleton Medical College in Vermont made the twenty-nine year old scientist a Doctor of Medicine.

Continued on next page



Prospect House, Shelter Island Heights, Burned Down 1942

Dr. Horsford and wife Mary spent what time they could spare from his professional activities at her childhood home on Shelter Island. They had four children: Lillian, Mary Catherine, Gertrude Hubbard and Mary Gardiner, before the sudden death of Mary, the mother, at the age of thirty-one. Two years later Dr. Horsford married her sister, Phebe Dayton Gardiner, and to them was born one daughter, Cornelia C. F. Horsford. Phebe, the second wife, died in 1860 at the age of thirty-four.

A tragic note entered into the professional career of Dr. Horsford less than two years after having married his first wife and former pupil, Mary Gardiner. Horsford's friend and sponsor, Dr. John White Webster, to whom Horsford owed his first acceptance into the ranks of higher scientific education, was charged with the deliberate murder on Nov. 23, 1849, of Dr. George Parkman, a noted Boston physician and donor of the land on which stood the Harvard Medical School. Climaxing one of the most exciting trials in the country's judicial history, Webster was convicted and executed. It was a shock from which Horsford never fully recovered.

He served on the Harvard faculty for sixteen years, during which period he was responsible for the formation of a department of analytical and applied chemistry which eventuated in the Lawrence Scientific School of which he was dean in 1861-62. The following year he resigned his faculty post to head the research department of the Rumford works at Providence, among his achievements there being the invention of Rumford Baking Powder. This with at least a dozen other achievements, including the invention of condensed milk, brought him considerable personal wealth. By the death of his second wife Phebe the large one-time Sylvester Manor

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Daniel Denton, School Teacher

DURING the colonial period education in Jamaica, Long Island was primarily a private affair. Some public interest was shown in it, and churches and religious societies were sympathetic to it, some of them even promoted it; but the long and bitter conflicts between Presbyterians, Independents, Quakers, and the Church of England impeded the development of publicly owned, operated, and financed schools in the town.

Jamaica was first settled about the year 1656, under the Dutch jurisdiction of New Netherland, during the administration of the stern and tempestuous Peter Stuyvesant, the director-general of the Dutch West India Company in America. Its leading proprietors came from Hempstead, about ten miles to the east of it. Hempstead itself had been settled only about twelve years earlier by immigrants from across the Long Island Sound; and among its original settlers had been the highly gifted and respected Reverend Richard Denton and his enterprising, scholarly son Daniel, who later became one of the founders of Jamaica.

The first inhabitants of Rustdorp, the name which the Dutch gave to Jamaica, were granted by the jurisdiction of New Netherland such freedoms, exemptions, and ground briefs as were generally enjoyed by others in the province. In the possession of their lands and the election of their magistrates they were placed on the same footing as was customary in the neighboring English town of Middleburg, later known as Newtown, and in the Dutch villages of Brooklyn, Midwout, and Amersfoort, the latter three in what is now Kings County.

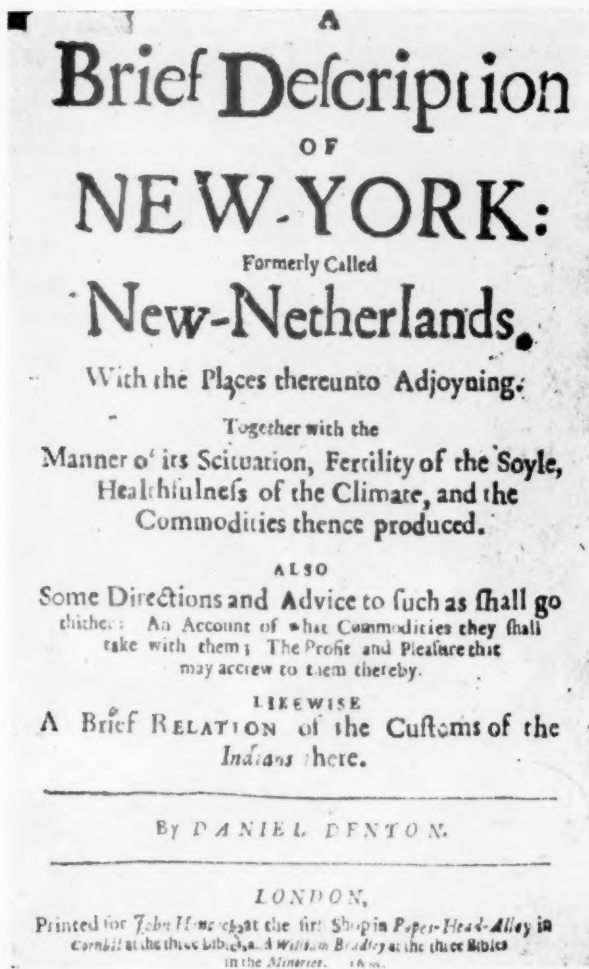
The early organization of the town of Jamaica may be

Rev. Charles A. Vertanes

characterized as theocratic. In it the church was an aspect of a religiously inspired community. The popularly elected magistrates functioned, to all intents and purposes, in both a civil and ecclesiastical capacity. As such, however, they were challenged by inhabitants who dissented from the beliefs held by the majority, or which were promoted officially by the Dutch jurisdiction. Beginning with 1662 the

town took an active interest in the maintenance of religion—ordering rates to be levied upon meadows and home lots for the minister, looking for and employing a minister, building a parsonage, and enhancing the spiritual welfare of the inhabitants in general.

One year after the first recorded action by the town on behalf of religion, there is some evidence pointing to the possible existence of a school in Jamaica, or of the accessibility of the same to the child-



Facsimile of 1670 Cover

ren of the inhabitants. In that connection the name of Daniel Denton appears in a significant role. The school's existence or its accessibility is implied in the will of William Foster, dated May 22, 1663:

"If my brother desire the oxen—that he had last year—a year longer, he may have them for the next year, and then the oxen to be fatted and put off to the best advantage for the children; but if he desire them not, then to be sold this year and converted to the children's use as aforesaid. Also my will is that two cows be put out for the children, which I give unto them and their increase.

"Furthermore my mind and will is that my children should be taught English well, and my son to write, when they are come of age. And if my wife should marry or remain as she is, and not teach the children as aforesaid, then my mind and will is that two cows more shall be laid out for that end, to give the children learning as aforesaid. . . .

"My desire and will is that my friends Thomas Benedict, William Foster, and Daniel Denton shall dispose of my estate according to this will in dividing it betwixt my wife and children, and putting out, and ordering of that which belongs to my children for their best advantage."

The provisions in this will

clearly suggest that Thomas Foster's wife was literate; and in the opinion of her husband was capable of teaching their children to read and write. This was in line with the practice of the period. A few years before this the two associated Dutch ministers of New Amsterdam, in a report on the conditions in the English and Dutch towns in the province, wrote, August 5, 1657, that "although some parents try to give their children some instruction, the success is far from satisfactory, and we can expect nothing else than young men of foolish and undisciplined minds."

Foster's will also suggests that instruction in the two elementary literary skills was available in Jamaica outside the immediate family circle, and that its cost was not trifling. The tuition of two cows which Foster provided was for two children — one a son named Thomas, the other "the child my wife goes withall," that is, she is pregnant with. It appears that only the "son" was to be instructed, both in "English" and "writing", implying the latter may not have been considered essential for women.

It is highly conceivable that Daniel Denton, the most learned man among the first settlers of Jamaica, taught on his own account in the town

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Passing of a Lighthouse

THE old Long Beach Bar lighthouse, which was acquired some time ago from Uncle Sam by the Orient Marine Historical Association, is located on the southwesterly tip of a submerged sandbar, approximately one mile from Long Beach, the latter some five miles in length, in the town of Southold. Long Beach forms the southerly line of Orient harbor and is now a State Park.

The lighthouse is a wooden five-room structure, standing about twenty feet above sea level, with a light tower about as high again as the main building. Some years ago when Orient harbor froze over, the lighthouse personnel was ordered to leave it temporarily for fear that the ice, upon breaking up, would weaken the steel piling that supports the building and carry it out into Gardiner's Bay. Following this experience large quantities of trap-rock were placed around the steel supports to break the force of the sea and protect them from drifting ice.

After this change, the site looked like an island built of rock, with a pond in the center which in time became the habitat of fish and crabs. George Fenton was the keeper for many years with his son as assistant. Mr. Fenton's home was located in East Marion where his wife managed a small farm. Before the Fentons owned it, the place belonged to my grandfather Mallison whose three children, my mother Alice, Harriet and Charles, were born and reared.

Following George Fenton's death, his son Charles became the lighthouse keeper, his assistant being Charles Moore of Orient, a Civil War veteran who followed carpentry. Ruth, one of his three daughters, became the Keeper's wife, which worked out well for Mr. Moore who liked

Capt. Eugene S. Griffing

to attend conventions of the G.A.R. and also to do a bit of carpentering near at home. At such times Ruth acted in Mr. Moore's stead as assistant keeper of the light.

But one day, the story goes, a government cutter hove to quite unexpectedly near the light and an inspector came ashore to make a routine checkup of the place. Although Charlie, the keeper, and his wife Ruthie, as she was called, had everything spic and span, she not wishing to be inspected, got into bed and pulled the covers over her head, that being about the only place to hide in a lighthouse.

Having inspected the tower room, the light and the rooms on the main floor, the government man finally came to Ruthie's room and, despite the

keeper's protests, opened the door and seeing the covered form on the bed, pulled down the covers to be greeted by a scream of dismay from the startled Mrs. Fenton. Of course, Keeper Fenton explained the irregular situation and confessed that in the absence of her father, the regular assistant, his daughter performed the duties perfectly, even to standing watch "off and on" day and night. And maybe because Charlie Fenton was a good Republican and a good lighthouse keeper, no formal complaint was ever made of the matter.

The old Long Beach red fixed light was a welcome beacon at night in my youthful years as a commercial fisherman out of East Marion. And the bell on the southwest porch of the building was a welcome sound constantly

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Long Beach Lighthouse, Near Orient.

Our Old Hunt Clubs

Continued from Page 62

spouse, they went to live across the highway in what later became the Bayard Cutting home.

Among the club's charter members were banker August Belmont Sr., publisher James Gordon Bennett Jr., artist William Sidney Mount, restaurateur Lorenzo Delmonico, jeweler Charles L. Tiffany and Secretary of the Navy George M. Robeson. Delmonico, incidentally, died while hunting on the grounds from either rattlesnake bite or buck fever.

Before 1868 when the railroad reached Great River and the club built what was known as Club Station on its own property, members used the mainline's Suffolk Station, just west of present Brentwood. This entailed a four-mile drive for which purpose the club maintained a stage.

Snedecor's tavern is now the northerly end of the clubhouse which stands to the west of a much older structure, the gristmill built by Patentee William Nicoll before 1700. In the billiard room of the clubhouse is a Franklin stove that came from New York's old Astor House.

The Long Island Country Club at Eastport also goes back a good many years, although its present name was not adopted until later.

As early as 1850 the Setuck Club was holding forth on the property, then the Jayne farm, ex-

Continued on page 70

Visitors Welcome

The General Museum-Library of the Suffolk County Historical Society, at Riverhead, is open daily (except Sundays and Holidays) from one to five P. M.

Visitors always welcome (no charge) at this educational institution where items connected with Long Island's history, culture and natural sciences are on display.

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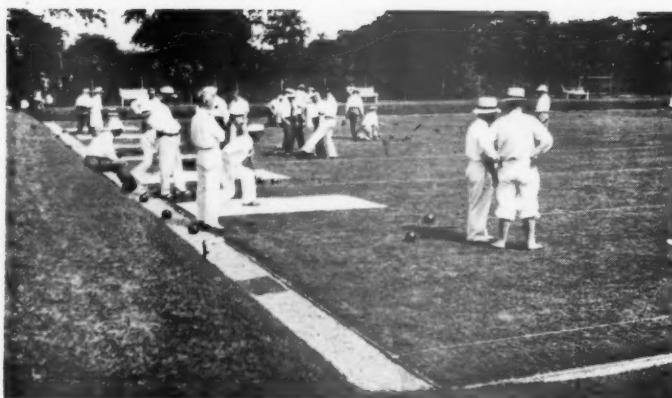
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**Bowling Green of 1920's****Bowling on the Green**

The Sunrise Lawn Bowling Club, founded in the mid-1920s at Amityville, was, we are told, rural Long Island's earliest such organization. The club was born at the County Line road home of Charles Bassler who had constructed a bowling green behind his residence. Equally enthusiastic in promoting the game and club was the Rev. Bayard H. Goodwin, rector of St. Mary's Church of Amityville.

In 1930, urged by the club, the Long Island State Park Commis-

sion built a full sized green in the Massapequa State Park where, in time, interclub tournaments were held.

The Forum is a welcome visitor at my home. I have gotten a lot of informative pleasure many times. Mrs. Mary E. Fuller, Riverhead.

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Ghosts and Hidden Treasures

DID I ever see a ghost? Not really, but—here's the story:—

It was a very dark night, the rain had just stopped, water was still dropping from the trees, when I heard a noise from the upper barn. We had no man living on the place at that time and, fearing that something was wrong with one of the horses, I decided to investigate. Taking a flashlight, I started along the narrow path which led between the trees to the upper barn. I noticed on the way over that the flashlight was dim, and I hoped that the batteries would last until I got back. When I reached the barn I found all well.

Coming out of the barnyard, by the dim light, I took the wrong footpath and I had not gone far when I saw two huge, fiery eyes glaring at me from the bushes at my left. I confess I felt a little queer for a minute, as I was out of reach of help if anything was really wrong. Turning my flashlight, I dimly saw a pile of old logs, just two of the ends of which were glowing with fox-fire, something I had heard of but had never seen before.

Just then from a tree high above me, there came a most awful shriek. Of course it was only a quark (night heron), disturbed from his sleep by my movements. I now discovered I was on the path to the lower barn. Passing through the barn, the carriages and sleighs looked almost ghostly in the dim light.

However they brought back many happy memories of drives through woods, where sometimes the sides of the road were carpeted with trailing arbutus, and, further on, a bank was pink with wild azaleas of many shades and the grass below was dotted with dozens of pink ladyslipper orchids. Of course, there were drives where the laurel almost brushed the wagon.

Sleighs also have their

Kate W. Strong

memories of jolly rides and occasional upsets — the last with no serious consequences. As I climbed the hill to the house, I thought of a colored man who came to work for us sometimes. If he had seen what I did that night, he would have told, for the rest of his life, of the awful beast and fearful shrieks he had seen and heard on Strong's Neck one night.

Miss Julia Smith, who used to live in the pre-revolutionary house across the road from the pond, said that her father once told of an experience he had with fox-fire. When a young man, he often visited a friend somewhere near Stony Brook. The shortest way was across an old graveyard, but why should he, a young man with no fear of ghosts, bother to take the longer way around?

Then something happened one night to change his mind. As he reached the top of the hill above the graveyard, he saw one old grave, which had fallen in, ablaze with fire. After that, he decided the longer way was really much the best.

As ghosts and hidden trea-

sure go well together, I am adding a story told me by Miss Mary Fannie Youngs, a tale from the old days in Oyster Bay. In her grandfather's time there lived an ex-slave named Frank. Frank was very fond of rum, and he thought of a unique way of getting it free.

When a new-comer came to the village, he would take him aside, and whisper to him that he knew where Captain Kidd had buried his treasure. In the middle of Center Island was a swamp known as the big meadow. If he would meet him there, bringing a shovel, and a jug of rum, on a certain moonlight night, he would show him where to dig.

When the night arrived and they met, he would tell him that he mustn't speak during the digging, or the treasure would disappear. Drinks of rum would soon loosen the man's tongue, and the bargain was off. This left Frank the possessor of at least a half jug of rum. The story goes that he practiced this a number of times with the greatest success. Undoubtedly the villagers knew of it, and thought it too good a joke to warn a new-comer.



The Author Greets Her Horses at the Upper Barn

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Our Old Hunt Clubs

Continued from Page 68

tending several miles back from Moriches Bay.

In 1887 the Oxford Rod and Gun Club of Patchogue, under the presidency of Dr. Henry G. Preston, absorbed the Setuck Club and took over the Jayne farm's hunting and fishing privileges. By then, however, it seems that two New York sportsmen, William C. Barrett, a leading Democrat, and U. S. Circuit Court Judge Beebe, a prominent Republican, with a number of friends, had purchased the farm.

Nevertheless, the Oxford Rod and Gun Club, of which the new owners of the farm evidently became members, carried on under the presidency of Dr. Preston. Sometime during the Gay Nineties the name became the Long Island Country Club and one Otto Magnus was elected in 1901 to succeed Dr. Preston as president.

Like the South Side Club at Great River, the Long Island has numbered among its members men prominent in business, industry and public life. On the roll have been ex-Governor Roswell P. Flower, Robert B. Roosevelt, cousin of T.R.; Howard M. Baker, Samuel Hopkins, Judge Edward C. Whitaker, Chester S. Lord, Judge Henry L. Finch, Dr. Spencer M. Nash, Dr. James H. Parker, Daniel J. Carroll and Michael Coleman.

On the night of April 3, 1898, the clubhouse and contents were destroyed by fire from a kerosene stove. A larger building took its place and here on May 12, 1899, ex-Governor Flower succumbed to a heart attack.

To the editorial indignation of the metropolitan press, word of Flower's passing was withheld for more than a day for fear that the news might cause a break in Brooklyn Rapid Transit stock in which the ex-Governor and some other members of the club had invested heavily.

Although not as old as the South Side or the Long Island, the Wyandanch Club of Smithtown has a distinguished history. Organized in 1880 as the Brooklyn Gun Club, its first few years were devoted to trapshooting, usually at Dexter Park in Jamaica.

In 1883 it leased the old Phillips homestead at Smithtown, together with a tract of hunting and fishing property adjacent to Phillips' millpond. Five years later, on March 31, 1888, it purchased the nearby Prime farm on which stood a large home built in 1751 by Caleb Smith whose ancestor Richard "Bull" Smith had acquired the site of Smithtown from the Nissequog Indians nearly 100 years before.

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Our Old Hunt Clubs

Continued from page 70

The Smith homestead became the clubhouse which, enlarged and improved from time to time, still occupies a knoll overlooking Willow pond with its gristmill dating back to 1785.

It was at the Smith homestead, later owned by Caleb's son Theodorus, that Daniel Webster sometimes stayed while fishing nearby trout streams. The club has had a number of distinguished members and guests during its more recent years, including humorist Irving Cobb, sportswriter Grantland Rice, heavyweight champ Gene Tunney, publisher Eltinge F. Warner, writer Ray P. Holland and golfer Bobby Jones.

Another historic Long Island institution is the Meadowbrook Hunt Club which was organized in May of 1877 on the A. T. Stewart property near present Garden City.

Calling itself the Queens Hunt, it was the first club of its kind in America although riding to hounds dates back in this country at least to George Washington's pre-Revolutionary days.

Unlike any other club devoted to the sport, the Queens Hunt was organized by businessmen who wanted to ride to hounds after business hours and therefore as near as possible to their city offices.

Importing a number of English thoroughbred hunters and America's first pack of Irish foxhounds the following year, they soon moved their operations to the eastward and became the Meadowbrook Hunt, under which name the club still carries on notwithstanding booming Nassau County's lack of wide-open spaces.

H. P. Horton

T. R. and the Tramp

I wonder if anyone still living in Oyster Bay will recall the night many years ago that T. R. told a group of us boys how he once



presided at a burial in the Canadian wilds. He told the story one night following a Guild supper at

Continued next page

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T. R. and The Tramp

Continued from page 71

Christ Church in Oyster Bay.

It seems that while on a bear hunt in Canada his hunting party was having its evening meal by the campfire when a tramp came out of the woods and was asked to join them. Later they engaged him as handyman. A few days later when a bear took refuge in a dense thicket, the tramp, claiming to have had considerable experience in flushing big game, offered to go in and drive the animal out.

Eventually when the bear broke cover not a shot was fired as by

then everyone was worried about the tramp. Forgetting the game, they searched the thicket and finally came upon the body of the tramp, the skull crushed by a blow from the bear.

As there was nothing on the body to identify the man, a grave was dug, Mr. Roosevelt said the last rites, the unknown was buried and a crude cross was erected.

Mr. Roosevelt told us boys that he never learned who the man was, but I guess that tramp never expected to be laid to rest by a President of the United States.

Benjamin T. Ebbets
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High Hill Beach

One time High Hill Beach, now a part of Jones Beach State Park and remembered as a separate summer resort by older Long Islanders only, was named for an unusually high hill, or sand dune, which stood there. Although there were numerous dunes along the outer beaches years ago, few had the altitude of this one.

According to Julian Denton Smith, the Forum's nature editor, who took a photograph of the hill some ten years ago, "Time and nature have lowered it considerably and now the feet of man are tramping it still flatter."

Worth Preserving

Mr. Glover's firsthand data on the "Loss of the Bark Pacific" (March Forum) is surely worth preserving as good source material.

J. P. Priest
Long Beach

Miss Lemcke's story of the Blackwell homestead (March Forum) was nicely executed. That the old place has withstood the march of progress so close to Manhattan is surprising. Mrs. Eva Le Page, Elmont.

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Daniel Denton, School Teacher

Continued from page 66

at this time. As one of the executors of Foster's will, it is not improbable that he drew the instrument himself. Foster was illiterate, yet his will contains the earliest known reference to education in Jamaica. Is it too much to assume that he may have been influenced by Denton as regards the educational provisions in his will for his children? Would it not have been to the advantage of a private schoolmaster, in the long run, if parents provided for the education of their children in any eventuality? Aside from this, Foster's will offers an interesting sidelight to the early educational history of the English towns on Long Island.

There are other references in the sources which add to the plausibility that Denton may have conducted a private

school in Jamaica during the early years of its settlement. His name is associated with the care and guardianship of other children. In The Minutes of the Town Courts of Newtown, 1656-1690, there is a statement, under date of March 23, 1660/1, that he was one of two who were "appointed and deputed overseers" of the children of Thomas Stevenson, deceased. In another place it is stated, July 9, 1668, that he and Robert Coe, both of Jamaica, "having been heretofore overseers and guardians of the children and estate of Thomas Stevenson of Newtown," were granted letters of administration of the Stevenson estate "for the use of his children."

Most relevant of all, in this connection, is the fact that Denton taught for about five years, 1678-1682, in Springfield, Massachusetts, where he also served as physician,

selectman, and town clerk during and prior to these years. In 1670 he had been in England, where he published his now famous A Brief Description of New York, Formerly Called New Netherland, the first English history of the empire state. This pamphlet, incidentally, deals mainly with Long Island. On his return to America, finding his wife unfaithful, he divorced her. Leaving Jamaica, he settled for about two years, 1673-1674, at Piscataway, N. J. Thence he moved to Springfield, where we find him from 1675-1682. Here at first he turned to the practice of medicine and surgery, and then engaged in teaching. What would have been more natural for him in a strange community to turn to familiar skills for a livelihood? Denton had been town clerk also at Hempstead and Jamaica, a

Continued on page 75

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Mrs. Williams studied design at the Traphagen School of Fashion at 1680 Broadway (52nd St.), in New York and her present post was obtained for her by the school's free placement bureau. She specialized in clothing construction at Traphagen, majoring

in draping, design, dressmaking, patternmaking and grading, with additional courses in the school's Art Department to enable her to present designs in sketch form. In addition, special courses are given in lingerie design, children's clothes, etc. As well as beginners, many professionals attend Traphagen for brush-up courses and

special studies. Summer courses this year will start the first week in July in the Art Department but the Clothing Department can be entered at any time during the entire year, since instruction is individual.

Seen here, student Sally Willcox models Beau Monde's white nylon ruffled petticoat with rose



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and brown embroidery, pretty as a formal gown, and holds a little girl's rosebud strewn petticoat. Charming little Mary Alice Harvey wears a pink nylon slip with white lace and eyelet embroidery, crisp as a tutu of the ballet.

Daniel Denton, School Teacher

Continued from page 73

position which in colonial English Long Island was frequently filled by schoolmasters.

What clinches the argument in support of the proposition that Denton may have taught in Jamaica, and that as such he was most probably the first schoolmaster of the town, is that it was in 1670, the year he was in England, that Richard Jones, the next schoolmaster first appears in the records of the town. As long as Denton was in Jamaica, there would have been no point on the part of the inhabitants to take any action with regard to education. The town was too small for two schoolmasters. In fact, some parents teaching their own offspring, it was too small even for one schoolmaster. That may well be the reason why the inhabitants



Hempstead "Town Spot" Where the Dentons First Settled on L. I.

took no corporate action on behalf of education during the first ten or fifteen years of the settlement. When Denton left, a vacuum was created, a pressing need for a schoolmaster opened which the arrival of Richard Jones filled.

Please thank Dr. Huguenin for his revealing story on the famous imported stallion Messenger. I believe he was owned for a time by a General Coles of Dosoris, Glen Cove. J. F. Harrington.

I have enjoyed reading the Forum * * * for years. Mrs. Russell H. Moore, Jamesport.

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Dr. Horsford's Shelter Island

Continued from page 64

property on Shelter Island came into his possession.

The title of that extensive estate up to the time of Phebe's father, Lawyer Samuel Smith Gardiner, had descended through three generations of Sylvesters and two generations of Derings. From General Sylvester Dering it

had passed to his brother-in-law Ezra L'Hommedieu, and thence to the latter's daughter Mary, wife of Lawyer Gardiner and mother of Dr. Horsford's two wives. Although the Doctor maintained his residence at Cambridge, he spent his summers on Shelter Island, frequently stopping on his way to and from the island at Greenport's historic old Clark House, now no more.

In 1873, while staying at the Clark House, Dr. Horsford disposed of 200 acres of his estate as a site for the erection of the old Manhasset House, long since destroyed by fire. This was during an era when Shelter Island was making its debut as a high class summer resort, especially for Brooklyn Methodists who inaugurated the movement by establishing large and attractive Camp

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Meeting grounds there. In the interest of improvement Dr. Horsford purchased a tract of land which included the property of the Mapes bunker factory, of odoriferous reputation, and had its shorefront buildings at Dinah's Rock converted into an attractive beach resort. Here the Greenport ferry established its Shelter Island terminal, but when the locality began to acquire an unsavory name Horsford sold the buildings and contents at public auction.

Needless to say, Dr. Horsford entertained many distinguished guests at his island estate. While visiting there in 1874 the poet Henry W. Longfellow planted an ivy in observance of the nineteenth birthday of the Doctor's daughter, Mary Gardiner Horsford. It is said that the vine is still flourishing. Lines written by Longfellow entitled *Song of Shelter Island* were first rendered on that occasion.

Among the many other improvements inaugurated by Dr. Horsford was the erection of a tower on Prospect Hill, the island's highest point. He also founded a public library over which Cornelia, his second wife's only child, presided, and raised a monument to the memory of George Fox and other Quakers who had found shelter from persecution at Sylvester Manor during the latter 1600s.

Dr. Horsford's research into the island's antiquity came as a matter of course. He had given much time to studying the possible routes taken by Norse explorers southward along the Atlantic coast centuries before Columbus. He eventually believed that he had discovered in Cambridge the site of Lief Ericson's dwelling, and at Watertown near Boston the site of Nurembega where the Icelandic voyagers who followed Ericson are supposed to have built a stone tower. He also compiled among other works a book on the Indian place-names of that part of Massachusetts.

He founded and endowed a library for Wellesley College and provided there a building which was named Nurembega in his honor. These were but a portion of his gifts to that institution for young women, located so near his beloved Harvard. When Dr. Horsford died at his Cambridge home on New Years Day 1893, at the age of seventy-five, the Shelter Island estate descended to his daughter Cornelia, who at her death in 1944 provided for the continued maintenance of the one-time manor, with life use to a nephew, Augustus H. Fiske of Warren R.I., and for subsequent distribution of the estate among several heirs.

Like his grandfather, Fiske taught chemistry at Harvard and served as chief chemist of the Rumford works. At his death in 1945 the Shelter Island property passed to his eldest son Andrew Fiske, the present occupant of Sylvester Manor, founded by Nathaniel

and Grissel (Brinley) Sylvester, the island's first white settlers, in 1652.

First Parachute Wedding

The first parachute wedding in history was performed at four o'clock on Sunday, August 25, 1940 at the New York World's Fair in the Flushing Meadows. The Reverend Homer A. Tomlinson of the Church of God in Jamaica performed the first ceremony that united a couple in the bonds of holy matrimony in a parachute.

Ann Hayward, nineteen years old, and Arno Rudolphi, twenty-two years old, both of the Bronx, sat side by side in a parachute suspended fifty feet in mid-air over the Amusement Area. The officiating clergyman faced them, sitting in a make-shift seat attached to the parachute. The wedding party—including the maid of honor, the best man, two witnesses, and four musicians—occupied all twelve parachutes of the Parachute Jump.

The solemn ceremony, billed by the Fair's Promotion Department as the concluding event of Aviation Week, was conducted with as much zeal as if the minister were in a church.

Dr. Charles A. Huguenin

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Passing of a Lighthouse

Continued From Page 67

ringing through a fog. Many times I have peered into the distance to catch a glimpse of that light and what a gratifying sight it was on a dark and stormy night, just off the starboard bow. Across the bay was home and good sleep between clean sheets for a couple of nights before returning to the fishing banks and the traps for another week.

My sister as a girl in her 'teens was once invited to spend a week at the lighthouse. Charlie Fenton played the fiddle and my sister was a church organist. So, as Charlie had an organ installed at the lighthouse, it must have been a very pleasant combination for the Fentons and their guest. But when nearly two weeks went by and my sister did not return home, there was considerable worrying at our home, especially as there was a lot of floating ice in the bay. But eventually my uncle Charles Mallison and I took a rowboat, crossed to the lighthouse and brought my sister home, safe and sound.

Three blasts from a vessel's foghorn or whistle as it passed the lighthouse always brought the keeper out on the porch with his binoculars and Ruthie beside him waving an apron. But Orient harbor will never be the same again. A light buoy bobbing in the waves cannot compare with the beauty and majesty of a lighthouse rising high above the sea.

The old Long Beach Bar lighthouse has been out of commission for some years now and Greenport, the largest seaport in that vicinity, must have missed its friendly beacon, just as must have



Little Gull Lighthouse, Built in 1869, Also in Southold Town.

Orient and Shelter Island and least, the old structure has the fishing hamlet of East been acquired for preservation as a monument to the Marion, my boyhood home. But it's nice to know that, at North Fork's romantic past.

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The Rapelje Tankard

In the January 1956 issue of the Long Island Forum there is a letter from Mrs. Joseph P. Smyth of Sayville, concerning the Rapelje Family.

It may be of interest to Mrs. Smyth that last September when I was in Newburyport, Mass., I visited the Towle Co., Silversmiths. At the time this company was having a loan exhibit, called "Upon this Occasion" an important presentation of silver from Colonial times to today.

Under the title "Sentiment" was shown the historic Rapelje tankard with the following notation:—

"This 18th century tankard by Nicholas Roosevelt (New York 1715-1769) has a 17th century marriage medal in the cover and a second medal inside the cover. The medals belonged to Sarah Rapalje, the first girl born in the New Netherlands. The tankard was presented to the Brooklyn Museum in 1926 by Mr. Tunis Johnson, a direct descendant of Sarah Rapalje.

"Lent by the Brooklyn Museum.

"The medals are of Dutch origin. The outside medal is the older and could possibly have been made by Peter van Abeele who lived from 1622-1677. It shows a young Dutch couple receiving the blessings of Christ and the legend in Dutch meaning "I take this young woman whom I love and no other."

"The inside medal is probably one made a half century later, around 1700. It shows the well known representation of Adam and Eve and a legend in capital letters which could be paraphrased "My Creator from flesh and two created out of one." These medals are engraved and therefore probably unique pieces made by the silversmiths.

"It is probable that the top medal was given to Sarah Rapalje upon her marriage to Hans Bergen in 1639, and the second medal upon the birth of a child at a later date. It is also probable that Nicholas Roosevelt was commissioned by the family of Sarah Rapalje Bergen to make the tankard and use the medals in the top. Nicholas Roosevelt represents the early New York Silversmiths whose works were notable."

John J. Remsen
Mt. Sinai

Please thank Mr. Valentine for me for his history of wire service (in Cold Spring Harbor, March Forum). (Miss) Clare Akerly, Queens.

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